

Public Meeting held in Detroit Lakes, MN to discuss the Upper Pelican River Watershed Project.



People at the public meeting.

On January 8, 2004, approximately 75 people attended a night meeting to hear what the representatives from the Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had to say about the phosphorus levels in the surface water within the Upper Pelican River Watershed. The PRWD has requested PL-566 Watershed Planning Assistance to address nutrient issues within Detroit and Floyd Lakes in Becker County.

The meeting started with an introduction by the Dennis Kral, PRWD President, explaining the need for public participation in the planning process. A presentation by Tim James, MPCA, followed explaining the current water quality conditions and what the condition of the watershed could be in the future if things are not corrected. The estimated future conditions were based upon the trends observed from actual water quality data that have been collected over the past seven years. The other presentation was by Bill Lorenzen, NRCS - Water Resource Staff (WRS). The PL-566 process was explained to the group along with how the NRCS-WRS and their partners would analyze the problem. Bill's talk concluded with showing the group what work has already been completed on the project.



Bill Lorenzen during his presentation.

After all the presentations were done, Dennis Kral opened the floor for questions. The questions ranged from project timeline to who will pay for the implementation of a plan. The meeting concluded around 8:45 PM.